

REMARKS

After entry of the foregoing claim amendments, claims 1-32 will be pending. Claims 1-11 and 15-28 have been allowed. Claim 14 has been objected to and claims 12-13 and 29-32 have been rejected. Claims 12 and 29 have been amended. Claims 13-14 have been cancelled. Support for the claim amendments may be found throughout the specification and figures and, for example, in FIGs. 11-12. No new matter has been added.

Claims 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2003/0099194 (“Lee”). Claim 14 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended independent claim 12 to incorporate the features of claims 14 and any intervening claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Lee.

Claims 29-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being by U.S. Publication No. 2003/0123468 (“Nong”).

Independent claim 29 recites an input module comprising, in part, virtual output queues that accept cells and virtual path queues that accept head-of-line cells. Additionally, each of the virtual path queues accepts a head-of line cell from a virtual output queue based on path identifier information of the cell.

Nong, on the other hand, discloses a packet switch that includes input ports for receiving and storing cells in an input queue (*See* Abstract, page 4, [0052]). The packet switch also includes a switch fabric with internal buffers (*See* Abstract). Each of the internal buffers is associated with a particular input port and output port (*See* Abstract, page 4, [0053]). That is, each internal buffer is used distinctly for buffering cells from a particular input port to only a particular output port assigned thereto (*See* Abstract, page 4, [0053]). A scheduling controller selects a head-of-line cell from the input queue of the input port to be transmitted to the assigned internal buffer (*See* Abstract). The internal buffer then transmits the head-of-line cell to an output queue in the output port (*See* Abstract).

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Thus, Nong does not disclose, teach, or suggest an input module with virtual output queues that accept cells and virtual path queues that accept head-of-line cells based on path identifier information of the cells.

In Nong, each internal buffer is associated with a particular input and output port such that each internal buffer is used distinctly for buffering cells from the particular input port to only the particular output port assigned thereto. Thus, Nong's internal buffer does not accept a head-of line cell based on path identifier information of the cell.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 29 patentably defines over the teachings of Nong. As claims 30-32 depend from claim 29, Applicant further respectfully submits that claims 30-32 patentably define over the teachings of Nong. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Nong.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are allowable and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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